

## Houseboats to Stay on Mission Creek

By Andrea de Brito

Surrounded by a wall of identical cream-colored condominium buildings to the north, the 280 freeway to the west, and the University of California, San Francisco's (UCSF) new campus to the east and south, Mission Creek is a commonly overlooked preserve. The waterway,

offers me an unfiltered cigarette, which, even for a non-smoker seems ungracious not to accept. There's something ceremonial about sitting in a swaying houseboat on the creek, smoking with the harbormaster.

O'Connell, who was raised in Chicago, Illinois, and left home when he was 14-years old to escape



Boats docked on Mission Creek

Photo by Erin Reagan

which empties into China Basin, was once a transportation lifeline of the City's lumber, hay, and maritime industries, connecting barges to Central Pacific rail cars. A century and a half ago, before it was partially filled-in with sand, paved over, and developed, the Creek wound all the way to Harrison and 16th streets, and Division and 10th streets. When the Spanish arrived in 1776, they built Mission Dolores on the banks of Mission Creek.

Today Mission Creek is home to twenty live-aboard vessels, some of which have been anchored in place for more than two decades. Earlier this fall the Mission Creek Harbor Association signed a new lease with the San Francisco Port, which will enable the vessels, along with 25 other berths, to remain where they are until at least 2043.

Harbormaster Kevin O'Connell lives in a boat called "The Cartoon." O'Connell built the boat a quarter-century ago to look like a caricature of his face: two windows for his glasses, and a slanted wall for his arched nose. Someday he plans to grow an asparagus fern at the bottom for his bushy moustache. O'Connell

an abusive stepfather, pulls out a black-and-white aerial photograph and smooths it open on the boat's floor. He traces the ghost of the old creek with his cigarette all the way up to Mission Dolores. O'Connell then leafs through a few pages of Vanished Waters, stopping to show



Photo by Erin Reagan  
Harbormaster Kevin O'Connell

photographs from the 1890s of rough-looking men building huge steam schooners to carry lumber. "We put this together twenty years ago. We decided to do a little history lesson," he said.

Less than two hundred years before the first house boaters settled

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## San Francisco General Hospital's Emergency Room Long Lines But High-Quality Care

By Kerry Fleisher

The line at San Francisco General Hospital's (SFGH) Emergency Care waiting room can be so long that, not infrequently, lower priority patients watch the sun rise and then set. It can be so long that patients like Nahid Brohead have watched entire seasons of "Who's the Boss" on the 20-inch television stationed in the corner, from episode one to the finale. But despite the excruciating wait, SFGH's patients are usually pleased with the services they ultimately receive.

"Very, very excellent services," beams Brohead, who's originally from Massachusetts and who was waiting for a doctor to see a cyst. "The services here are better really than any place I've been to before, better than any hospital I've been to in the West."

The scratchy sound of the waiting room's antiquated television is pierced by occasional coughs and a few loud soliloquies from particularly restless

patients. Time passes without much evidence, except for occasional patient numbers broadcast over the loudspeakers, or the sound of ambulance sirens transporting

*Continued on Page 15*



Photo By Kerry Fleisher

Edward, who lives near AT&T stadium, regularly visits SFGH for emergency care services. Above, he shows where SFGH doctors stitched together his broken arm after he was hit by car and ambulated to the hospital.

## Southeast San Francisco is Home to Creative Colleges

By Emily Wilson

In the American Industrial Building on Third Street about 10 women gather in a large light-filled room for their first construction class. They aren't learning how to put up buildings, but how to put together clothes: in sewing parlance construction is about making buttonholes, seams, and zippers. Sewing machines, fabrics, patterns and dummies line the room. This is Apparel Arts, one of the few schools in the country with a pattern-making program.

Ling Yang, one of the students in the construction class, studied finance and worked as a computer technician before she enrolled in Apparel Arts. Her previous career choices, she says, were to make her parents happy. Now Yang, who always liked to draw, is doing what she wants to do. "It's awesome," she said about the class. "I'm being creative and not a lot of people get to do that."

Like many Apparel Arts students, Yang has a full time job. She works as an events planner at Dominican University and attends classes nights and weekends in fashion illustration, draping, textiles and couture sewing. She hopes to go to Europe to work for a fashion house when she finishes the program.

Fellow Apparel Arts student and financial advisor Heather Hutchinson is not in the market for a new job. Sewing is purely a creative outlet for her. She taught herself to sew 15 years ago, and is taking classes to improve the quality of the clothes she makes. "I work in a really professional environment and I can't look like I made my clothes," she said. When Hutchinson initially starting looking for a suitable program she found that most sewing classes were geared towards beginners. Apparel Arts Director Suzy Furrer started the school a decade ago to cater

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# Publisher's View It's a Cruel World

By Steven J. Moss

"It's a cruel world," my mom used to say, whenever I complained about being bored or lonely. Her tone was usually distracted, or tired, as if the world's cruelty was so well accepted that even a five-year-old should know all about it. In retrospect a part of me hopes she was being ironic, or even campy, though that's improbable: my mom rarely uses irony and is never purposely campy. More likely she was repeating something she'd heard, perhaps from her mother, one of those pat parent phrases, like "I'll stop this car right now if you don't stop arguing," or "because I said so."

The real meaning of my mom's "it's a cruel world" mantra was that whatever usually unspecified action I wanted her to take to cure what ailed me wasn't going to happen. She wasn't going wiggle her nose like Samantha from Bewitched, and create a posse of playmates for me, or even get down on her knees and play a few rounds of Sorry. The world wasn't so much cruel, as indifferent.

Given the times in which my mother grew-up I can forgive her for labeling the world cruel. Two world wars, the Holocaust, flu and polio pandemics plagued her and the generation that raised her. From my mother's perspective preparing for the worst to happen – and stealing oneself to the point of indifference – wasn't so much pessimistic as realistic.

One of the central challenges of being human is to find joy in a world in which cruelty, or at least loss, abounds. Meeting this challenge is where spirituality lives. If, as the poet Rumi puts it, "God's joy moves from unmarked box to unmarked box..." you never know where you might find bliss.

From this perspective my mother's "it's a cruel world" sounds less like a terminal description than a challenging starting point. It may indeed be a cruel world. But it's also an exquisitely beautiful one, and, in the end, how we experience it is up to us.

# Editorial

## State Senate Bill 840: It'll Cure What Ails Us

By Bonnie Baron

In 2006, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 840, the "California Universal Healthcare Act." Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the bill, dismissing it as "socialized medicine." The legislation will be reintroduced next year, though, and could appear as a future statewide ballot initiative.

SB 840 would establish a single-payer, universal health care system that would provide affordable health care to all Californians. It is not socialized medicine. Under the bill Californians would have complete freedom to choose their health care provider, selecting from the existing mix of suppliers. SB 840 does impose "socialized financing." It would require all individuals, employers and the government to share responsibility for paying for the system. The resulting monies would be pooled into a single fund from which medical bills would be paid.

SB 840 would act to eliminate insurance companies as middlemen in California's health care system. Currently, upwards of one-third of every health care dollar is spent on billing, marketing, underwriting, and utilization review – a process that often leads to denials of legitimate claims – activities that enhance insurance company profits, but divert

resources from health care. SB 840 would mandate that 95 percent of health care dollars be spent on actual care. The Lewin Group, a policy consulting firm, estimated that the bill's reduction in administrative costs alone would save billions of dollars in health care spending. SB840 would also significantly control growth in health care expenditures by using the state's purchasing power to buy prescription drugs and durable medical equipment in bulk.

SB840 would provide Californians with comprehensive health care benefits, even if an individual had a pre-existing condition. Because all residents would have access to primary and preventive care, Californians' overall health would improve. This, in turn, would save billions of dollars that are now spent to provide care to residents who have to rely on emergency rooms for treatment of acute conditions that could have been prevented.

For more information about SB840 and/or to volunteer to help get the bill passed, contact the California Universal Health Care Organizing Project at 695.7891; [www.singlepayernow.net](http://www.singlepayernow.net).

Bonnie Baron lives on Rhode Island Street.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Development Deal Prompts Ethical Concerns

Dear Editor:

Thank you for exposing the sad truth that many neighborhood residents have known for years; that often important community planning issues are for sale or are misrepresented by the people who we should be able to trust the most. The types of activities described in last month's "Publisher's View" reduces the chance that new development will have a positive impact on Potrero Hill, and discourages residents from becoming involved in their community. For years I have participated in the San Francisco Planning Department's master plan meetings, power plant issues, or design meetings related to projects that could negatively impact the neighborhood. But once you figure out that some of the community's "authority figures" are being directly paid by developers to push their agendas in these meetings, it becomes very difficult to give up your free weekday night or go to a weekend meeting knowing that this misrepresentation is often more powerful (and well paid) than average honest individuals trying to protect the neighborhood's character. So you give up, become apathetic to issues that should concern you. Instead of a vibrant community we have discouraged, disconnected neighbors who feel that they have become disenfranchised from their own neighborhood.

The particular incident involving the development project at 650 Townsend, though reaching a new level of bold disrespect for the people who live on the Hill, came as no surprise to me. It seems that in this case the developers established the decision-making timeline, the developers determined the financial cost to themselves to get a variance for breaking our design codes, and then these same developers identified who would decide where these monies would be spent. Why is it that it's the developers, who have no long term interest in Potrero Hill, that are in charge?

It is time for all of us to insist that there are NO paid resident lobbyists supposedly acting on our communities' behalf, whether it is in behind-closed-door meetings or in serving as an officer of the Boosters Neighborhood Association. It is the very least we can do. Write or call Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, 554.7670, and the Boosters Executive Committee, 861.0345, and insist on this change.

Nancy Anding  
Missouri Street

Dear Editor,

It was with great outrage that I read last month's piece, "\$1.5 Million Developer Donation Raises Questions." The article certainly does raise numerous ethical questions. The piece describes a deal that was struck in secret between a big-time developer and neighborhood activists, including Potrero Hill Boosters Neighborhood Association executive committee members. Incredibly, one of the Boosters executive committee members, Joseph Boss, hand-picked a small circle of advisors, subject to approval by the developer, to decide how the \$1.5 million "donation" should be disbursed. A large sum of the disbursed money ended-up going to nonprofits tied to Boss, his wife, and Tony Kelly, the President of the Boosters.

The lack of transparency and outcome of this deal is appalling. The fact that Joe Boss makes a living selling his services to developers while also serving on the Boosters executive committee is a clear conflict of interest. Boss should step down immediately from his position with the Boosters. Additionally, the entire matter deserves greater scrutiny and investigation, with some very pointed questions answered by the Boosters leadership; specifically by Booster President Tony Kelly, whose 501(c)3 received \$100,000 of the developer's donation. Kelly should immediately step down as Boosters President.

The irony is, several years ago at the invitation of the Boosters, I and some of my neighbors helped draft stringent new conflict of interest rules that we recommended the Boosters leadership adopt as part of its bylaws. The proposed rules would have required stricter transparency, including detailed financial disclosure by executive committee members. The proposed rules would have helped prevent the Boosters' current ethical bind. Unfortunately, it now appears that the Boosters decided not to adopt those stringent conflict of interest rules, or conveniently set them aside, or adopted something much weaker. In any event, it angers and pains me that Potrero Hill and its future is being bought, decided, and compromised by the undue influence and interests of developers. That it's happening with the secret help of hired guns for the developers from within our own neighborhood is inexcusable.

Kepa Askenasy  
Missouri Street

### WAKING THE BULL ...

BY WILL BULLAS



TOM, DUCK AND HARRY ...



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## Short Cuts

### Happy Harmonica!

Former Potrero Hill resident and Scottish lass, Samatha Zee, who reluctantly moved to Southern California with her husband, Joe Menn, and two kids, five-year-old daughter Ella and two-year-old son Finn, a few years ago, reports the following conversation with Ella about the upcoming holidays:

Sam: "So we'll come back from Scotland and London and then there'll be Thanksgiving and in December there's Dutch Christmas and then..."

Ella: "And then we'll get out the harmonica!"

Sam: "The harmonica?"

Ella: "Yes, the harmonica. And we will light it for eight days."

Sam: "We'll do what?"

Ella: "You know, we'll get out those little candles and light them. But they have to last for eight days."

No reports back yet from the Menn-Zee family about whether they'll be using a harmonica as a menorah; stay tuned, and in the meantime have a Happy Hanukah!

### Time Ticks for the Metronome

The high-falutin-era ushered in by **Whole Foods** is already getting the neighborhood geared up for a David versus Goliath tussle. The landlord of the **Metronome Ballroom** recently hiked-up the dance school's monthly rent by \$4,000 in an attempt to muscle-out the community fixture. This particular property owner appears to be banking on new zoning laws that will permit all types of commercial leases. The Metronome hopes to pay its higher rent by asking patrons to buy a "Save the Metronome" wristband for \$15, thereby becoming a "Metronome Angel," or pledging a specific amount of money each month for the next six months. Concerned neighbors have taken the issue to Supervisor **Sophie Maxwell**, since it takes two to tango with the big shots.

### Viva Daniel Webster

Los fundadores de **PREFund** lanzo sus planes para empezar con una escuela bilingual para los jovenes enfrente de un grupo de padres entusiasmos en Octubre 23. For those who skipped a line, take note: the Potrero Residents Education Fund (PREFund) announced plans to launch a Spanish bilingual preschool on **Daniel Webster Elementary School's** campus next Fall. After months of planning and fundraising, the preschool is already receiving applications. If approved by the City, the preschool will be operated by the Mission Neighborhood Center and host 36 preschoolers, a quarter of whom will receive scholarships. PREFund hopes that the preschool will help reverse decreasing enrollment at Daniel Webster by attracting students to their bilingual program.

### Baraka's Back

**Michelle Hughes** and **Justin Hughes** have re-launched Moroccan bistro **Baraka** in a more French-Mediterranean vein, with svelter menus, a wider wine selection, and teardrops of parsley emulsion puffs topping the new hamachi crudo. The 19th and Pennsylvania Street residents are new to the restaurant business. Justin works in a hedge fund and Michelle hails from the real estate biz, but they've always wanted to manage a dining establishment. Baraka now features a pre-fixed menu option, while the tried-and-true lamb tangine and pistachio-cruste goat cheese are still on the menu. Chef **Chad Newton's** new creations include seared octopus with citris chile rouille, foie gras, and his own special take on gnocchi... While, as reported in last month's *View*, **Robin Bronillette's** luxury clothing store on 18th Street, next door to down-home **Hazel's**, may have lost one of its financial backers, but it's still planning an early-Spring opening. So if you're looking for fancy threads, right in our own neighborhood, start saving your shekels...

### Fresh Food

The Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development is looking to diversify beyond the City's pilot farmers' market in Bayview by sponsoring a more corporate-cum-conscientious enterprise: Fresh and Easy. The market, coming soon to 5800 Third Street, pending leases, will not feature young gardeners selling organic artichokes under the cloudless skies, but will be more akin to a Walgreens, if that outlet sold fresh produce. The food corporation, which has more than one dozen stores in Las Vegas, will include a green building, in-store recycling, special parking for hybrid cars, and, you guessed it, fresh food at low-prices.

### Wires Finally Disappear

It took a decade and a half, but the under-grounding of electric utility distribution wires has finally been completed on parts of 19th, 20th, Mississippi, Texas, Missouri, and Connecticut streets. The final vestiges of the old overhead facilities will be removed by the end of the year. "Outstanding," said nearby resident **Edward Lortz**, in response to the news. Now if they can only get to the rest of the Hill sometime soon, particularly long-time under-grounding advocates **Babette Drefke's** and **Dick Millet's** blocks

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## The Curbside Ethicist

Q: A lot of my Potrero Hill neighbors are making a big noise about San Francisco General Hospital's proposed helipad. It will be loud, they say, and add lots of air pollution. I can understand their concerns, but sometimes it seems that their main worry is about their property values. Isn't having a helipad about saving people's lives, and shouldn't that trump concerns about property values? It seems a little like complaining about ambulance and police sirens. What's the right ethical thing to do in this situation?

A: Anyone who has lived near noisy subway lines and airports – not to mention the background buzz of the freeway or the honk of a CalTrain's locomotive – can relate to the desire for a noise-free neighborhood. And all transportation modes cause social and environmental problems while simultaneously making our lives better. Airplanes create polluting air and greenhouse gas emissions, but also take us to Hawaii and other sought-after vacation spots. Automobiles create enormous environmental problems, yet even when alternative transportation modes exist, such as MUNI, many of us insist on driving. The proposed San Francisco General Hospital helipad will create an environmental impact in the form of potential air and noise pollution; it will also have the potential to save lives. In a democracy such as ours there's nothing unethical about weighing the merits of all sides of an issue, and advocating for whatever position seems most suitable based on one's individual sense of what's right.

Q: I've been friends with "Mary," who lives outside San Francisco, since college. I'd see Mary, her husband "Tim", and their little boy several times a year, and during Fleet Week

the whole family would come to stay with me. Mary's husband worked on jets in the military and their little boy loved the air show. Recently, after an eight-year marriage, Mary and her husband decided to divorce. In September, Tim called and asked if he and his son could come and visit like they do every year. I have a closer friendship with Mary than with Tim, so I wasn't sure what to do and was really torn. In the end I didn't want their son to be disappointed, so I agreed, but it was awkward for me to have them visit without Mary. At the time, Mary said it was okay with her, but since then she has been very distant. Did I do the right thing? Should I invite Mary to come with her son next year, instead of Tim? This is a big part of my life too; I would hate to give it up.

A: Divorce, no matter how civil, forces a difficult transition for the former couple, their children, and their friends. You were faced with a no-win situation, and tried to do the best you could. Going forward you need to develop some boundaries with both Tim and Mary. Though you didn't do anything wrong, you might consider apologizing to Mary, and let her know that she and her son are welcome to stay with you in the near future, and for fleet week. In the long run it may be difficult to accommodate both Mary and Tim; you may have to tell Tim that his son will be welcome to visit, but may only stay at your house if accompanied by Mary.

*The Curbside Ethicist specializes in solving ethical dilemmas. Readers are encouraged to seek guidance from their own religious or philosophical counselors to solve knotty problems, and are invited to send the View their questions, comments, and disagreements about this column: editor@potreroview.net.*



This structure, located on 25th Street near Potrero Avenue, looks like a barn, but is it? If you know do tell:  
editor@potreroview.net



# Mariposa Hunter's Point Yacht Club Celebrates 75th Birthday

By Kerry Fleisher

Before a horizon composed of parked cargo ships and scattered tug-docks, members of the Mariposa Hunter's Point Yacht Club celebrated their club's 75th birthday last month with tales of the southeastern seafront, camaraderie forged amongst sailing aficionados and dilettantes, and poetry readings.

"We are true San Franciscans, we welcome anyone to join the Mariposa Hunter's Point Yacht Club," said commodore Jim Guerrero of the oldest continuous yacht club in San Francisco, a cigar tipped back between his fingers. "All the people here are good people, good personalities, down-to-earth. The most flavor you'll find in San Francisco is here."

The club, located just south of AT&T Stadium, pays due respect to its salt-water roots, with its walls decorated with nautical certificates, faded burgees, and lithograph prints of the industrial waterfront. And much of that waterfront, including the area around Pier 50, the site of both the Mariposa Hunter's Point Yacht Club and Bayview Yacht Club, was created from ships that were abandoned by gold miners in a hurry to get to the hills.

Though the yacht club doesn't have the necessary permits to operate a marina, a quarter of its members either own or co-own a vessel, and all members are encouraged to sail with their boat-owning brethren. Rudy Bella, a long-time club member and ex-commodore of the Hunter's Point Yacht Club before it merged with the Mariposa Yacht Club, has what he calls an "inflatable" vessel in his garage. New members Cary Roman and Lisa Braswell are all about the sailing classes, in addition to the recently refurbished bar.

"We used to be home to blue-collar workers, now we welcome the white-collar to blue-collar to police

officers," said Bella. Despite their expanding membership base, which currently stands at 275, the club prefers to keep things tight-knit. "It's like going to Cheers, everyone knows you," Bella said.

Most members hail from Potrero Hill, Excelsior, and the Inner Mission. The club has upwards of 30 volunteer positions, and charges annual dues of \$125, which includes affiliated membership with the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association. Club membership also provides 98 percent reciprocity at other San Francisco yacht clubs, though not the St. Francis Yacht Club.

To open a marina, the club would need to obtain a few dozen permits from several different public agencies, and undergo a number of environmental reviews. "As the saying goes, by the time you get the last permit the first is expired," said Vice Commodore Sean Griffith.

The San Francisco Appreciation Society, which hosted last month's tribute, was co-founded by native San Franciscan and yacht club member David Katznelson. Katznelson became a member two-years ago, after he walked in, fell in love, and threw down his membership fees, all within 20 minutes.

In addition to ushering in new members, much is changing these days at the yacht club, which is currently on a month-to-month lease with the Port. The University of California, San Francisco's Mission Bay campus is steadily encroaching towards the club, as are new condominium buildings. Still, with much of the southeast San Francisco shoreline tied-up in industrial leases or unused landfill, club members hope to continue to host old-school seafarers, who know how to enjoy the sea from the vantage point of the bar, for some time to come.

"The theory is you spend so much on your boat, you need a cheap place

to drink," Vice Commodore Sean Griffith chuckled, crunching air quotes around the word "boat". "Ring the bell," challenged Katznelson to a tipsy crowd of intellectuals, musicians, and artists, many of whom were visiting the Mariposa Hunter's Point Yacht Club for the first time. The veterans laughed and clinked glasses. The sign next to the bell reads, "'He who rings the bell in jest buys a drink for all the rest.'"

In addition to serving its regular clientele, the club has played host to a Hell's Angel Wedding, a Scooter Club extravaganza, and the annual San Francisco Torch Run. "The Hell's Angels left the place cleaner than when they came in," swore

Griffith. Later, when this reporter catches word that one of the Hell's Angel members were dunked in the water, Griffith laughed, "Really clean, seriously. They threw the guy in the water before he could mess with the place."

San Francisco Appreciation Society members, which is dedicated to its organizational name, passed out poetry quotes about the sea, requested people read them aloud, and rallied everyone to toss back their drink after each quote. As Jean Paul Sartre was quoted, "Only the guy who isn't rowing has time to rock the boat."

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# Brightline Defense Project Attempts to Stop Construction of City's Peaker Plants

By Kerry Fleisher

Following years of debate, the San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC) and Board of Supervisors recently green-lighted construction of three City-owned natural-gas combustion turbines (CTs). The CTs are supposed to replace the half-century old, Mirant Corporation-owned, Potrero Power Plant, which is located a few blocks north of the CTs' proposed 25th and Illinois street site. CT construction now faces final approval by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

Southeast San Francisco residents, City officials and environmentalists generally agree that the antiquated Potrero Power Plant, which releases tons of toxic particulates as a byproduct of electricity generation, should be closed. But some activists say that replacing the existing facility with another fossil-burning power plant is foolhardy, especially with the promise of cheap, sustainable energy from the sun and the wind, and demonstrably successful energy efficiency programs.

In September Brightline Defense Project, a legal aid nonprofit, filed a complaint in Federal District Court to halt CT construction. The complaint was submitted on behalf of the A. Philip Randolph Institute and Bayview resident Lynne Brown and Potrero Hill resident Regina Hollins. Brightline asserts that a recent Supreme Court ruling holding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) accountable for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions should prompt that agency to scrutinize CT construction. Brightline also maintains that state regulations should act to substantially reduce the use of Potrero Power Plant's dirtiest diesel units, and that retrofitting the plant's natural gas-fired unit would enable it to run cleaner while allowing the City to save the up to \$230 million needed to construct and operate the CTs.

Brightline Defense Project Executive Director Joshua Arce says that the group's primary objective is to stop the CTs from being constructed until other greener ways of addressing San Francisco's energy future are vetted. According to Arce, "I can without a doubt say that if the City could own renewables to meet California's need for reliability I think 100 percent of people would embrace it. City power is a gain, but through the CTs this is not a gain for the City."

Arce, along with James Bryant, president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute's San Francisco Chapter, has asked Mayor Gavin Newsom to revoke the CT project, and formally requested that the California Energy

Commission reconsider its October, 2006 certification of the project.

Under pressure from SFPUC Commissioners Richard Sklar and David Hochschild, last month Mayor Gavin Newsom signed an agreement with Mirant Corporation that purports to guarantee that the Potrero Power Plant will be closed once the California Independent System Operator (CAL-ISO) certifies that the CTs are operational. Arce interprets the agreement as a win for his constituents, who feared the possibility of a "double power plant" scenario. "It at least expresses the spirit of the idea it's going to close," said Arce.

The City's contract with J-Power, the Japanese company retained to construct and operate the plants, was also recently amended to prohibit unlimited sales of electricity generated by the City-owned CTs. The plants' use will be restricted to 4000 hours a year per CT to meet reliability needs. The City, which obtained the CTs in a settlement with Williams Power Corporation in 2001, hopes to have fully retired all costs associated with constructing the CTs by 2020. J-Power also has a 30-year contract with the City to own and operate a fourth CT located at the San Francisco International Airport.

Brightline Defense Project's lawsuit claims that the CT project hasn't been properly studied by either U.S. EPA or BAAQMD, particularly in light of the recent United States Supreme Court ruling, *Massachusetts versus U.S. EPA*, which ordered U.S. EPA to reevaluate its decision to allow greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles to go unregulated. Brightline wants the federal court to stop the CTs from being built, claiming that the Supreme Court ruling should be legally applicable to power plants. Sierra Club attorneys are invoking the same ruling to freeze power plant construction until new regulations are in place.

Brightline Defense Project attorneys also point to a December, 2006 state regulation that limits the amount of nitrous oxide (NOx) that can be emitted by the Potrero Power Plant's diesel-powered units. If enforced the regulations could force Mirant to close these units by the end of 2009. The in-City CTs, meanwhile, are scheduled to become operational within this same time period.

The Potrero Power Plant consists of three diesel-fired units – four, five, and six, which produce just 3 percent of the plant's generating output – and a natural gas-fired unit – three, which generates the remaining 97 percent. In 2005, Cal-ISO authorized Mirant

*Continued on Page 8*



## Creative Colleges

*Continued from Front Page*

to students like Hutchinson, who wanted to go beyond the basics.

"I taught a Learning Annex class on pattern making," Furrer said. "One of students said 'I want to go more in depth' and pestered me for a year, so finally I said 'OK, come in' and she brought a friend and then other friends came and finally I had to decide whether to open a school or keep doing freelance pattern work." Furrer decided to open a school, which now teaches 80 to 100 students a month. Most work in the apparel industry and want to sharpen their skills, or are planning to work in fashion like Yang. A few are serious hobbyists like Hutchinson. Furrer says she has a waiting list for the

Tuition at the SFAI is \$15,105 a semester, and Keith says most students received at least partial scholarships or grants. Because the school is small, she says, it's easier to distribute financial aid. "The amount of loans really varies," she said. "Our students range widely from those who can afford to pay without any type of grant and those who absolutely can't afford to pay."

Another nationally-known college of fine arts is also based in Potrero: the California College of the Arts (CCA). The school, which started in Oakland as the California College of Arts and Crafts, celebrates its centennial this year. Founded during the arts and crafts movement, the school prides itself on being on the cutting edge of green design, with classes that include Material Choice and Environmental Impact, Ecology in Design and Sustainable Fashion Design. The college's faculty includes designer Yves Behar; Jay Baldwin, a protégé of Buckminster Fuller; and playwright and poet Michael McClure. The Potrero Hill campus, a solar-powered building in a former Greyhound bus repair shed, offers classes in architecture and design, fine arts, and the graduate programs.

Tuition for undergraduates is \$1,220 a unit; graduates pay \$1,017 a unit. The college distributes \$12 million in scholarships, with more than 70 percent of students receiving some financial support, with the average financial aid package at roughly \$24,000. CCA alumni include filmmaker Wayne Wang; sculptor Viola Frey; and painter Arthur Krakower, who got his Master of Fine Arts when he was 80.

Krakower, who has had five shows since graduating with honors in 2001, says completing the program gave him the courage to show his work. "It was marvelous," he said. "I couldn't wait to get there every morning." The former Macy's executive had been painting since the 1950s, and after retiring from his second career in commercial real estate decided to get serious about it. According to Krakower CCA's faculty, such as painter Kim Anno, made all the difference to his success. "It's a mentor relationship," he said. "The teachers and students are very close."

With nearly 30 buildings around San Francisco, the Academy of Art was bound to have one in the 94107 zip code. At the campus on Townsend Street, students can take courses in drawing, motion pictures, and television. The school, founded in 1929, offers classes in a variety of art and design fields, including advertising, graphic design and photography. Classes are \$600 a unit, and \$7,540 in financial aid available per semester, with most students taking advantage of at least some assistance. According to the Academy's website graduates from the last two years are working at a variety of companies, including Louis Vuitton, Pixar and Chronicle Books. The school claims an 85 percent employment placement rate.

At the San Francisco School of Digital Filmmaking on Third Street,

students write, direct, produce and edit five movies in the year-long program. The school started just two years ago, and accepts up to 34 students a year. Tuition is \$27,900 and students can arrange to borrow up to \$6,000 more than that.

That's what Tammy Miller, one of four student in the first class in 2005, did. Tammy now works at the school as assistant operations manager, and says about a third of the school's students take advantage of the loan program. Since graduating Miller has worked on two feature films, and has seen her former classmates go on to start their own production companies, become consultants, make documentaries, edit movies and work for web casting companies. "We're multi skilled when we get out," she says. "We know how to write, shoot and edit a movie."

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Photo by Rebecca Wilokowski

pattern-making program, which takes 24 to 30 months to complete and costs from \$7,500 to \$10,000.

In addition to Apparel Arts, Southeast San Francisco residents looking for a career in the arts or outlets for their creativity have plenty of options within walking distance. Nearby Schools offer courses in painting, drawing, digital filmmaking and architecture. Just two blocks away from the students making art out of fabric is the San Francisco Art Institute's (SFAI) graduate program. Here 200 students are taking classes that include Theories of Art and Culture, Sculpture in Context and Museum Evolution: Critical Histories and Perspectives.

Casey Keith, a student who works in the Institute's admissions office says that her classmates come from a variety of backgrounds. "A lot of Master of Fine Arts students have a Bachelor of Fine Arts or a BA in liberal arts," she said. "But plenty come with political science or business degrees." SFAI is one of the few fine arts institutions in the country. After graduation, Keith says, former students typically go on to open-up galleries, work in museums, or teach at colleges or high schools. The Institute's alumni include Potrero Hill artist Paul Kos, who has had installations and videos at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the de Young Museum; Robin Gianattassio-Malle, a producer with KQED's "Forum," which has one of the largest audiences of any show in public radio; and controversial performance artist Karen Finley.



Photo by Rebecca Wilokowski

Students wait for class to begin at California College of the Arts.

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## Peaker Plants

Continued from Page 6

to spend \$25 million to retrofit unit three so that NOx emissions were reduced by 90 percent. Units four, five, and six have a combined ability to emit 56 tons of NOx a year; unit three emits 36 tons annually; and the proposed CTs would emit 26 tons year, assuming each CT runs an average of 3000 hours a year.

In addition to NOx and greenhouse gas emissions, power plants emit a

In a September press release Bryant noted that historically underserved southeast San Francisco residents will bear the brunt of the CT's pollutants. "The southeast community of San Francisco is a poor, mostly minority and increasingly non-English speaking community that has long lived under the shadows of polluting smoke stacks," wrote Bryant, referring to the Hunters Point Power Plant, which was shuttered almost two years ago. "The community stands up to City



Photo by Rebecca Wilokowski

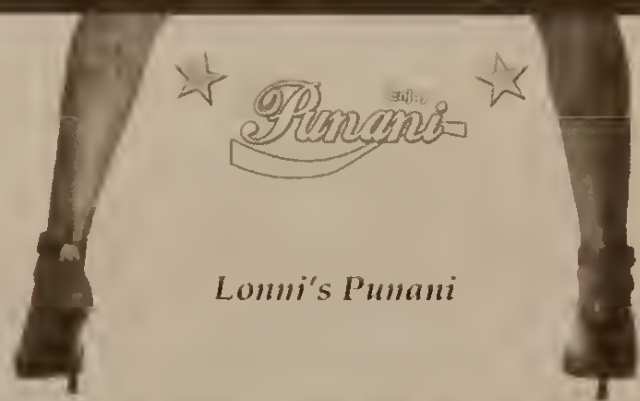
number of other pollutants that can cause health problems, including potentially inducing asthma. The Potrero Power Plant also churns superheated water into the Bay; the CTs would rely on a cooling system that recycles water, with no Bay discharges.

Some CT supporters believe that Brightline is simply a front for Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), which may want to stop the City from owning its own generating facility. However, according to Arce, "we've [Brightline Defense] received no money from PG&E, and all services are provided pro bono pursuant to our mission statement." The *San Francisco Bay Guardian* reported that the A. Philip Randolph, a complainant in Brightline's lawsuit, received \$135,000 from PG&E over the past three years.

bureaucrats to say we don't want to live with three more smoke stacks in our neighborhood sending dangerous toxins into the air."

Potrero Power Plant Task Force Chair Philip De Andrade supports the CTs as a necessary means of closing the existing power plant. "We reluctantly accept the peakers. Closing Mirant is in the forefront of our mind," he said. While Arce agrees with De Andrade's overall goal, he prefers that different steps be taken to reach it. "We lose an opportunity cost of almost \$300 million dollars," said Arce, who remains skeptical that the City can recoup their debt through future fossil-fueled electricity sales in an energy market that is fast-evolving toward renewables. "This plan might have looked like good plan in 2003-04. How much has changed since then?" he asked.

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# San Francisco Department of the Environment Considers Carbon Credit Program

By Kerry Fleisher

The carbon-trading market is fast becoming the next frontier for businesses and citizens who want to offset their carbon emissions, and the San Francisco Department of the Environment (SF Environment) is planning to muscle in on the yet-to-be regulated market. Tourists and San Franciscans may eventually be able to buy carbon credits from SF Environment to help mitigate the City's municipal carbon footprint, if the department can iron-out the analytical details. If the program is adopted the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) would become one of the first U.S. municipalities to sell carbon credits directly to the public.

By 2010 the carbon credit market may exceed \$10 billion annually in international transactions, with businesses and individuals buying and selling shares in projects that reduce or capture carbon emissions as a means to slow or halt global climate change. SF Environment eventually wants to sell credits to residents and tourists as a means of obtaining enough resources to zero-out CCSF's carbon footprint. Under the concept the funds collected would be invested in carbon-reduction projects within San Francisco, such as energy efficiency programs, tree planting, and solar panel installation.

At a meeting held last summer, Lars Kvale, who works on emission reduction-related measurement and verification issues for the Center for Resource Solutions, an environmental nonprofit, presented SF Environment commissioners with the pros and cons of entering the unregulated carbon market. He stressed that greenhouse gas offsets must represent "permanent, enforceable, surplus, real and quantifiable reduction in emissions as a result of a specific project activity."

In a global marketplace without precedent, carbon credit buyers and sellers are debating how best to implement standards to ensure that offsets result in real emission reductions. One challenge is associated with the potential to double-count reductions: if a home builder installs a solar panel because they were legally required to do so, no credit has been created. Another complication is how best to calculate carbon emissions from the wide range of options available.

Most policymakers look to one of two methods to calculate emission reductions associated with particular actions. The California Climate Action Registry offers an online software tool in which electricity and natural gas use is entered; once

the emission-reducing action is undertaken it's emission-reducing potential is verified by a third party. The Clean Air and Climate Protection software, which was developed by ICLEI, measures total emissions on an annual basis, including transportation and waste. Neither calculator provides robust enough estimates to take to the carbon bank.

Various local nonprofits are also grappling with how best to enter the carbon market on behalf of different constituencies. San Francisco Community Power, with support from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, is developing a pilot initiative to examine whether reductions in small emission sources at low-income homes and small businesses can be tracked sufficiently to participate in carbon markets. The Dogpatch-based nonprofit hopes to overcome some of the analytical challenges associated with the emerging market, so as to enable hard-pressed communities to benefit environmentally and economically from undertaking emission reductions. "These small sources need to become a part of the solution," said Meleah Mannix, who's working on the initiative, "We think there are analytically-sound ways for them to participate in environmentally-beneficial markets."

The market for greenhouse gas emission reductions is more advanced in the European Union, which adopted the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and Clean Development Mechanism; these international agreements include guidelines for carbon credit trading. However, many smaller carbon trading firms are cropping-up in the United States. Native Energy, a Vermont-based private energy company, sells renewable energy credits to Americans, encouraging them to select which wind farm or carbon sequestration project will receive their money.

Several SF Environment commissioners were skeptical about the proposed City-sponsored carbon credit program, and wondered whether resources could be better focused on preventing carbon emissions in the first place. Commissioner Ruth Gravanis stated that buying an offset should be done as a last-ditch effort. Commissioner Jane Martin agreed, and said that ideally the government would avoid polluting at all. All of the commissioners concurred that the City should be held to the highest standards in terms of policing any future carbon emission credit program.

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By David Matsuda

Our team leader Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Trapper John, an alias taken from the 1980's television show MASH, has been deployed by the military seven times, twice to Iraq. A career officer with more than two decades in the U.S. Army, Trapper John has served as an advisor to the highest level decision-makers in the civilian-military chain of command. An Arabic scholar who teaches at West Point, his job is to embed our Human Terrain Team (HTT) into the Camp Taji command staff so that we can insert cultural operational knowledge – mediation, conflict resolution and reconciliation – into on-the-ground decisions.

In the two months since our arrival in Iraq Trapper John has worked his way to a top spot in the advisory chain. He has done so not by power plays, intrigue or guile, but by taking on the toughest assignments and guiding our team to deliver research products that have redefined the way combat forces interact with Iraqis. From people on the street to traditional and modern powerbrokers, the 82nd Airborne Division is, through our HTT's efforts, slowly acquiring the ability to see Iraqis as human beings; perceive the world through Iraqi eyes; and to form genuine partnerships with Iraqis to end the corruption, killing, and intimidation that stand in the way of peace.

First Lieutenant (1LT) BJ Honeycutt, another MASH-derived pseudonym, is Arab-American and an HTT cultural analyst. He speaks Arabic and his knowledge of social hierarchies, bargaining strategies and power relationships has proven invaluable in negotiations with citizen councils, sheikhs and high-ranking religious figures. The 1LT regularly accompanies Trapper John to high-level negotiations, where he provides insights into the internal dynamics, motivations, and worldview of Iraqi negotiators. Honeycutt, who is from the tough streets of an eastern seaboard city, is a master at playing the race card; he often quips when ordered to do something that "I don't need to do nuttin 'cept stay A'rab and sell the white man my oil."

Staff Sergeant Hawkeye Pierce, another false name from MASH, is also a cultural analyst, but his main

job has been to keep our equipment in working order. It's no small task, since all of our high-tech toys need periodic overhauls and endless retrofits. In addition, Hawkeye patiently takes our raw data and formats it for the endless presentations HTT gives on how to put cultural operational knowledge into play. He's also my "Battle Buddy" who, since I don't



A helicopter's view of the area around Camp Taji, Iraq.

carry a weapon, is my personal security detail when we go outside Camp Taji.

On our first fieldwork mission "outside the wire" Hawkeye and I travel to a government food distribution center (FDC) that serves roughly one-quarter of Sadr City. Food, along with propane for cooking, gasoline, and electricity, is one of the essential resources that are often controlled by armed militias. We wanted to question the Food Agent and the Chief of Security (COS) about how militias are affecting their operations and to see if there's anything we can do to help.

Unfortunately, instead of pursuing this mission with calm and seasoned veterans, we were accompanied by new soldiers who immediately went into overreact mode. As we traveled to the FDC they stopped all traffic and assumed menacing shoot-to-kill positions. Once at the center they interrogated its employees in a disrespectful manner. The Food Agent fled the

scene, but the COS, who by this time was surrounded by soldiers, agreed to meet with us.

Our Army counterpart asked the COS if militias had infiltrated the center. He said "no," that an "organization" protected them. That was good enough for the soldier, but as he put away his notebook, I started in with a new round of questions.

the soldiers moved on and we were alone before continuing our chat.

Having established a rapport I asked several follow-up questions like, "are the majority of the people who live in the area and work at the FDC members of the same khams, or extended family?" When the COS answered "yes," I knew we were on to something. I asked him whether the organization that was protecting them was a tribe. The COS then identified his tribe, and over the next hour I learned that some of the tribal youth were no longer listening to the Majles al Shuyukh, or tribal council, and were being drawn into militias. He was afraid that there would be an intra-tribal war, and that the militias would move from mere extortion to a hostile takeover of the FDC. After I found out where the tribal council met we were in a position to assist them with the situation.

Our next mission was to a propane distribution center in the same area, but our team was left behind because there was suspicion that we would be targeted by an improvised explosive devise. The unit moved into sector without us, and a bomb that would have blown our Humvee to pieces severely damaged a large assault vehicle.

Long-time Hill resident Dave Matsuda, Ph.D. is an anthropologist who's on leave from university teaching to help the U.S. Army with reconciliation efforts in Iraq. Email him at druncledave@comcast.net if you have questions, want to involve your school in a project, or to send a care package to a young soldier.

Photo By David Matsuda

Through an interpreter I politely introduced myself and asked the COS if he was having a blessed Ramadan. As he nodded yes, I told him that I too was fasting and we talked for a moment about the jewzee, or section of the Qur'an, which was the day's required reading. I then waited until

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# Sixth Generation Hill Residents Turn One

By Eileen Bray

Aidan and Ethan Zettler-Bray, sixth generation of Potrero Hill residents, will celebrate their first birthday on December 11. The family has lived on the Hill for more than a century.

After the 1906 earthquake, the boys' great-great-great grandmother Annie Ferry Gallagher and their great-great grandfather Bernard Gallagher moved from south of Market to the 500 block of Missouri Street, and soon after to Mississippi Street, where great grandmother Ann Gallagher McCarthy was born and lived for 94 years.

Their grandmother Grace McCarthy Bray was raised on

Mississippi Street, as were many other members of the clan. After spending a little time on the East Coast and many years in the South Bay, Grace, who is known as "Harmony" to her grandchildren and almost everybody else, is now back in the family home.

Florence Bray and her partner Vicki Zettler were thrilled to add two more residents to the Potrero Hill community last December. From the look in their eyes the boys seem likely to keep the tradition of "our home is on the hill" for many generations to come. And they're looking forward to celebrating their first birthday at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood house.



Aidan and Ethan Zettler-Bray.

# New Kids


By Melissa Glorieux

Greetings Earthlings! Isaiah Rochester Shoichet made his planetary debut on August 12; he's demanding an audience with the leader.

Happy birthday to Jolie Behravan! Jolie turns three on December 24. Coincidentally, her best friend Amelie Maltz, also a Potrero Hill resident, turns three on the same day.

Hudson Contreras will have his second birthday this Christmas, December 25!

Happy birthday to Eli Katz, who turns nine on December 27. Eli competed in the Golden Gate Regional Fencing Tournament in November, and will be in another regional fencing tournament on December 9, fencing sabre.



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## Potrero Pix



Left and above:  
Pets and their  
owners take part  
in Farley's annual  
Halloween Pet  
Parade.  
Photos by Marjorie  
Hill.



Kent Evans gives a speech before the ribbon-cutting at  
AAA's new location at 16th and Bryant streets. Photo by  
Emily Payne.



The Cosco Busan container ship, which hit the Bay Bridge last month, gashing its fuel tank, and spilling oil that covered 40 miles of shoreline, killing upwards 3,000 birds, is currently drydocked on the Central Waterfront. The ship is being repaired at BAE Systems San Francisco Ship Repair yard, at the former site of Civil War-Era Union Iron Works. Photo by Michael Rhea.



At a November 15 reception celebrating the inauguration of the Mayor's Open Space Task Force, the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) awarded a grant to the Friends of Esprit Park, which was founded by Dogpatch residents to encourage the Esprit Corporation to donate the park to the City and County of San Francisco. Left to right: Mike Farrah, Mayor's Office; Supervisor Sophie Maxwell; Bruce Spaulding, UCSF Senior Vice Chancellor; and Mariuccia Iaconi and Andrew Detsch representing Friends of Esprit Park. Photo by Susan Merrell



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## Mission Creek

*Continued from Front Page*

on Mission Creek, the Ohlone people paddled the waterway in canoes made of tule reeds. Before Europeans arrived in the mid-1700s, the Ohlones had navigated San Francisco's streams and creeks for at least two millennia, fishing, catching birds, mussels, and clams, collecting and planting reeds, and establishing seasonal encampments. When the Spanish arrived they enslaved the Ohlones, and tried to convert them to Christianity. Instead, they drove the native population to extinction.

By the 1880s, two huge lumberyards supplied the wood, mostly from ancient redwood trees, for almost all of the City's homes. On the channel's north side, where the multi-story condominium buildings now loom large, cabinet shops made trim and built boats; at the mouth of the channel, mounds of hay imported from the Sacramento Valley fed San Francisco's horses.

In 1969, 27-years old and having completed a stint as a military cook during the Vietnam War, O'Connell arrived at Mission Creek to find a loose community of whiskey-drinking merchant fishermen, ex-Navy workers, boat builders, and sailors. A Beat poet and raving ex-Catholic intellectual, he was one of the few people in the community who'd been to college; a bit too highbrow for some of the old-timers. But he'd worked as a merchant fisherman, and had always felt most alive when he was on the water. He enjoyed the sound of waves lapping at his boat's hull as he fell asleep. By 1980, and fueled by a steady supply of Jack Daniels, O'Connell built the basic structure of his boat in just one week. He's lived on the creek ever since.

"Do you know this place used to be called Shit Creek?" he asks. "It was really vile here. The water was filthy, electricity was spotty, we used generators, and we threw together our own docks." Behind this outward show of disgust, though, O'Connell's has a deep pride in what once existed. He fondly describes the old creek as a civilized laissez-faire community with an Old West feel. Artists arrived throughout the 1970s, enjoying the play of the sunlight on the water, the closeness to nature, and the funky backwater community.

In 1975, a San Francisco Port official arrived at the Mission Creek community and told the house boaters that they needed to leave within thirty days. Within 24-hours all twenty doors wore eviction notices stating that the make-shift harbor was going to be torn-down, and the houseboats would have to be moved to an undisclosed location. It wasn't the first time the community had been threatened. In the late-1950s, the State of California ejected the first house boaters from nearby Islais Creek, just to the south, to make room for a copra-producing plant, which closed in 1974. However, in exchange for that disruption the state had offered the community fifty-five permanent berths on Mission Creek. But this early agreement, backed by

a grandfather clause promising the dwellers comparable berths if they were ever forced to move again, was disregarded by the City in its quest for new development.

A Mission Creek resident contacted a lawyer, who quickly secured a temporary restraining order preventing the Port from coming near the Creek. Shortly thereafter, the Port revoked their eviction order, and declared that the community could remain in place if they cooperated with a plan to transform the area into a greenbelt. "We were really fighting for our homes and our harbor. It's like a little village down here—that sense of us having something really unique and not being willing to just go find another place. You keep doing that and you run out of places," said O'Connell. In 1976, the Mission Creek house boaters organized into the Mission Creek Harbor Association. Unlike surrounding Bay Area houseboat communities, with the exception of Sausalito's renegade Gates Cooperative, the Mission Creek harbormaster and all other appointed positions are one hundred percent volunteer.

Forming an association didn't stop the City's chronic appetite for growth, particularly in southeast San Francisco. In 1980, the Port claimed that the three-year lease offered to the community in 1977 had never been signed, and that harbor renovation costs had been underestimated, triggering years of wrangling between the community and the City. Over time, many of the blue-collar house boaters could no longer afford to live on the creek and moved to homes on land. Some of the sailors and fishermen found cheaper berths in ports outside San Francisco. Some died. As the area developed the individuals and small camps of people living in their cars, tents, or under make-shift shelters along the creek also began to disappear.

When the '89 earthquake hit, O'Connell was working on his boat with four other carpenters. When he felt the first tremors, he thought someone was speeding down the channel in a giant powerboat. He walked onto his deck and watched the pylons swaying in figure eights like a samba line. "I felt a boom," O'Connell remembers. "A sudden surge of pressure lifted the whole boat up and dropped it down. The wing of the freeway was snapping back and forth. The expansion joints were opening all the way up like teeth. Chips of concrete were shooting across the channel." The idea of your home being lifted and

dropped may not sound like the most re-assuring earthquake experience, but O'Connell swears that Mission Creek is the safest place to be during an earthquake. "We're a lot more self-sufficient than regular beach people," O'Connell said.

Many of the community's current residents have similar stories as O'Connell. In 1980, 33-year-old Tony Lang wanted to move out of his converted firehouse in Oakland and into a cheap place in the Mission. He stumbled on Mission Creek, where he saw a for sale sign on a World War II-era landing craft sitting on a sinking dock. "Well, that would be interesting," he thought.

A telephone installer at the time, Lang enjoyed riding his motorcycle around the railroad tracks through fields of wild rabbits. "I remember seeing Mission Creek before it went away completely, dripping out of a pipe at the end of the channel," Lang said. Two years after moving to the creek, Lang got married on his leaky, rotten boat to a woman he met in a City College Cantonese class. "I told my wife when we got married that once you live on a boat you can never get used to living on land. She didn't think that was funny," Lang

laughs. "There was always that sense of danger—trying to get it not to sink at all times. The automatic pump was going off every hour, in the middle of the night. There were big holes you could put your finger through."

Lang, who now teaches at City College, believes floating on water gives people a sense of freedom and spirituality. But he misses the more carefree days of the "country marina." "The [new] lease is confining us more and more. The old days are better," Lang said. But he also admits that his wife and daughter, who attends the University of California, Berkeley and also lives on the creek, like the changes because now they feel safe walking outside late at night.

When Ginny Stearns, another creek resident, adopted a baby girl from China fifteen years ago, she wasn't sure if raising Mei Li on an old houseboat was a smart decision, but her husband insisted on it. A ten-year resident at the time, Bob Isaacson was not about to give up his home and community to live on "the beach." And then their boat sank.

"I woke up one morning and there was creaking and groaning," Stearns recalls. "I ran downstairs and saw that

*Continued on Page 16*

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Photo by Erin Reagan

Mission Creek is home to a number of different bird species.





## Emergency Room

*Continued from Front Page*

someone to the hospital's trauma center.

Tom, a man with a face full of white whiskers and the shakes, said that his spell in the waiting area this time is the longest he's experienced at the hospital: he arrived at 11 a.m., and it's now 4:30 p.m., with no hint that he'll be seen by a medical professional anytime soon. Tom, who hails from New York and lives in the Tenderloin, is an emergency room regular. The nurses always ask "very pertinent questions" during triage, he said, and "are friendly and efficient." The only thing he would change about the process, if he could, is "The wait. Definitely, the wait."

SFGH's Director of Quality Improvement Eric Isaacs, M.D., points-out that the Emergency Department is strapped for resources, operating without the high-powered CAT scan and MRI machines typical of better-heeled facilities. However, one thing SFGH isn't lacking is a committed faculty. "The doctors are really passionate about what they do. There are people destined to work at a public hospital. You need to be willing to sacrifice a little bit," said Isaacs.

SFGH boasts some of the nation's most qualified doctors, drawing graduates from Harvard University, Stanford University, the University of California, San Francisco, and other elite medical programs. And the hospital's support staff keeps

the quality bar high with one of the best translator programs "in San Francisco if not one of the best in the nation," said Isaacs.

Signs posted on the waiting room wall in Spanish and English proclaim that, "It is the POLICY of SFGH MC to Financially Assist Uninsured or Underinsured Low Income Patients: you may be eligible for low cost or free care." "Patients run the gamut of socio-economic levels," noted Isaacs. Financial District executives, homeless people from the Mission, and under-employed workers from Excelsior all mingle together in the waiting room on a regular basis, he said.

Mission resident Filemon is here for his second time, accompanying a friend to the waiting room. He came in previously with a banged-up arm, and waited four hours to speak to the nurses in triage, and then seven more hours to see a doctor. The outcome: he was given a handful of pain killers, which he said wasn't worth the wait. Still, he recommended SFGH to his friend because it was close and "the nurses and doctors speak Spanish and seem to care."

With health care juggernaut Sutter Health threatening to close an array of in-patient hospital facilities at St. Luke's Hospital, located a few miles west of SFGH, by 2009, the wait to see a doctor at SFGH may become even longer. Although Sutter Health hasn't yet said whether they intend to close St. Luke's drop-in emergency care facility, many patients who rely on the hospital for care are concerned

that it will eventually be shut-down. Even without hospital downgrades, Mission residents seeking emergency care are bound to spillover to SFGH, the only other hospital south of Market, which by law cannot turn away patients.

"It's not quite as sexy to give money to a public hospital, you may not get a placard," acknowledged Isaacs, who would prefer to see all his patients much more rapidly. The hospital is currently investigating how to handle the high percentage of repeat patients who regularly seek emergency care for non-emergency issues. Isaacs is working with other researchers on a study examining how to encourage lower-priority patients to obtain services at a community free clinic instead of waiting for emergency care. Lowering the number of patients with minor complaints could help reduce waiting times, and alleviate the stress on patients, doctors, and staff caused by the ever-present patient backlog.

Research Director Robert Rodriguez, M.D. is also looking at what motivates homeless patients to seek emergency care. He and his team are conducting surveys to assess how hunger, shelter, and safety factor into patients' choice to seek emergency treatment, operating under the theory that roughly one-quarter of homeless people use SFGH as a de-facto shelter. "Our goal is to define if this is the core issue," he said. One possible solution would be to establish a shuttle system to nearby shelters, or create an educational campaign

to steer non-emergency cases away from much-needed patient beds, said Rodriguez.

Edward, who's nonchalantly sprawled across two waiting room seats, constitutes the target audience at the heart of Rodriguez's study. Edward, who lives near the ballpark, joked he's been to the emergency room a hundred times. "No, a lot," he clarified, with a laugh. Today he's helping a friend seek care, though usually "the most I have is a cold" when he comes in.

"I'd rather be in San Francisco General than anywhere else," he said. "Anywhere else you might catch hell, you might even die. They have a very professional staff, they make enough money that they can afford to pay for good doctors at a county hospital. Here and Palo Alto, they can keep up with the private hospitals."

Edward pulls up his sleeve, and points to a huge scar covering his lower arm from wrist to elbow. The stitches are a constant reminder of the high quality care offered at SFGH, where doctors tended to him after a car accident broke his arm in two. "They put my arm back together, that's for sure," Edward laughed, a certain pride for his county hospital breaking across his features.



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## Mission Creek

Continued from Page 14

water was pouring through the back door. I ran around and tried to stop things, but it was clearly hopeless. This wasn't supposed to happen: I was living with an engineer." After cold creek water rose slowly to the second floor, Stearns found out that a few houseboats had sunk on Mission Creek. "It became clear that when you're in a boat on the water, you're in a little eggshell," she said.

Stearns and Isaacson rebuilt their boat, and became an essential part of the community's artistic element. A quaint sign posted on the small strip of land fronting the creek reads, "Welcome to Huffaker Park. The park is open from sunrise-sunset." The patch of green space, which was designed by Dogpatch resident Jeff Brown, features meandering dirt paths and a community garden. According to Stearns, "The more you see evidence of individual participation—like you can see that someone's made this bed of flowers—the more respectful people are." Stearns worked hard to create the park, which is named in honor of deceased former harbormaster Ruth Huffaker, who led early negotiations with the Port. Stearns reintroduced butterflies to the area, and posted a sign with illustrated descriptions of the eight species that now make the park their home.

"I'm a self-appointed documenter of the wildlife that's here. I have an extensive list of birds that I see here, partially so that we can say

to Catellus, 'Yes, we do have these birds, and I have daily lists for eight or ten years of the birds and butterflies here'," Stearns explains. As part of their extended lease, the Mission Creek Houseboat Association will help Catellus Development Corporation, now ProLogis, develop and maintain an extended stretch of parks along Mission Creek. Stearns' driftwood bird perches, which can be seen from her balcony overlooking the creek, will soon be installed along the waterway, paid for by ProLogis.

Stearns also created the "people-feeder," a box supplied with food for hungry people that was installed both alongside the creek and in front of SomArts gallery in the Mission. A community member stocked the feeder every day with homemade sandwiches. Stearns laughs as she remembers building a child's Huck Finn raft and watching Mei-Li paddle down the Creek with a friend. Such a country scene wouldn't have been possible a decade and a half ago, when the paint factory dumped chemicals into the creek, and untreated sewage flowed into the brackish waters year round. "I'm glad I missed that," Stearns said.

Another Mission Creek resident, Jack Wickert, plays the trumpet. And the piano, tuba, euphonium, guitar, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, obo, violin, viola, cello, upright bass, as well as some mean notes on pieces of rubber tubing. Since the 1970s, Wickert has played in national and international tours with companies like the San Francisco Mime Troupe, El Teatro Campesino and the Pickle

Family Circus.

Wickert's houseboat walls are decked with framed photographs of circus troupes and garish drawings of Adelitas—brave female warriors of the Mexican Revolution—standing tall and full-figured, holding machetes and waving Mexican flags. At the far, dock-facing end of his boat, light refracts through a stained glass window that one of Wickert's friends salvaged from a church demolition. The steep, pointed roof is reminiscent of a medieval parish church.

Wickert walks through his front door and onto the dock to watch three boys and their father test their balance as they step from land onto a river raft carrying a cooler and lawn chairs. The three will paddle toward McCovey Cove, south of the stadium, for one of Barry Bonds last games with the Giants. Wickert yells across the creek, "I've got life vests!"

After his family moved to the City from Wisconsin in 1940, young Wickert reveled in the tactile pleasures of a less developed San Francisco. He was drawn to the water, often collecting scraps of meat from the butcher to use as bait to catch the grimy little fish that swam in Islais Creek, and which were frequently putrid by the time he got home.

In 1974, Wickert and performance artist Bonnie Sherk fought to obtain the City's permission to tear down a concrete slab under the Cesar Chavez freeway interchange to open up Crossroads Community, better known as "the farm." For fourteen years, he and volunteers ran an

"edible landscape:" urban space with a vegetable garden, a park, a theatre, a rehearsal space, 'a school without walls', a darkroom, a library, gardens, and a farmhouse full of goats, pigs, and chickens. Teachers from local schools brought children to the farm, where they were free to explore its offerings. Wickert says that he's one of the few people that have more than a half-dozen friends that make their livings as clowns.

When a seagull lands on the railing and squawks and squawks, Wickert, a cigarette propped between his lips, stops mid-sentence and shouts, "Shut up you son of a bitch!" But there's a more grating sound that drowns out the birdcalls: the endless rhythm of gargantuan machines pounding, grinding, drilling and lifting throughout Mission Bay. In addition to the UCSF campus, in a few years multiple new office buildings, a Little League baseball diamond, and possibly a new public school will be built in the area.

Over the past three hundred years multiple ways of life, and the people who engaged in them, have come and gone in San Francisco. Today, Mission Creek is one of a small fistful of creeks that aren't completed paved-over. In fighting for their homes, Mission Creek residents have also fought for the right of water to run above-ground through a growing City. For the right of water and all the life that grows in it, on it, and around it, to exist alongside freeways, baseball stadiums, condominium complexes, and universities.

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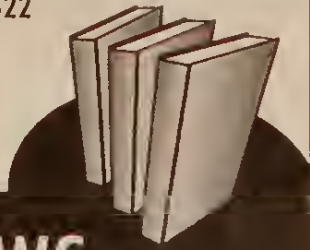
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## LIBRARY NEWS

Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch Manager

### Potrero Branch Closure Delayed

On October 31st, final bids for the renovation of Potrero Branch were submitted. Much to everyone's surprise, the bids were above the budgeted amount anticipated by the architects. While the bids are evaluated our doors will remain open. We now expect to close this spring.

### Center for the Book Display

Center for the Book has installed a remarkable display at the library, including works by artists Nora Pauwels, John DeMerritt, Nigel Poor and Michael Bartalos, as well as samples from their classes, such as letterpress printing, decorative binding, and more.

### On the Same Page November/December Pick: *Swing* by Rupert Holmes

As described by the San Francisco Public Library, *Swing* is "an exciting historical thriller of great local interest,... brilliantly written, skillfully evoking the Big Band era and the lost world of Treasure Island, *Swing* is a unique and dazzling treat by a great storyteller."

### Programs for Children

Our regularly scheduled program, Storytime for Children, will continue at the usual time: Thursday, December 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 10:30 a.m. For children age birth to five. Film night for children and special programs will resume in February.

### Want To Help Raise Money For Potrero Branch? Donate Your Art

The Neighborhood Library Campaign Committee in collaboration with community members will organize an art auction to raise funds for those things that public bond money cannot cover in the renovated or newly constructed Potrero Branch Library. If you'd like to contribute your art, or if you have other fundraising ideas, please contact Tina Tom at the Friends of the Library at 626.7512, extension 106. The Neighborhood Capital Campaign Committee meets monthly to discuss fundraising strategies and progress. The next meeting will be held on January 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Potrero Branch meeting room.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

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Potrero Hill Healing Arts  
Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses  
Potrero Hill Neighborhood House  
Potrero Hill Psychotherapy  
The Potrero View  
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The Pub at Mission Bay Community Center  
Quayle & Company Awnings  
The Ramp  
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Safety Training Seminars  
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San Francisco Bay Guardian  
San Francisco Center for the Book  
San Francisco Community Power  
San Francisco School of Digital Filmmaking  
Seam Store  
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Soulflower Floral Design  
Sports Basement  
St. Gregory Nyssen Episcopal Church  
State Farm Insurance  
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Sundance Coffee  
T.A. Hard Workout  
Thick Description  
Thinkers Cafe  
UCSF Community Relations  
Union Bank of California  
Uptime Resources  
Urban Green Development  
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VyAyr Fitness  
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Brought to you by the Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses.  
When you support your neighborhood businesses,  
you help keep Potrero Hill a thriving and healthy community.

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HILL



## GETTING INVOLVED



**Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **December 11**, at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

**Potrero Boosters** meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: **December 25**, 7 p.m.

**Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB)** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz) or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **December 11**, 10 a.m.

**Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting** is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **December 4**, 6 p.m.

**Potrero Hill Democratic Club** meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, [www.PHDemClub.org](http://www.PHDemClub.org). Next Meeting: **December 4**, The Presidential Primary Forum with candidate campaign representatives attending. Holiday food and wine. Everyone welcome, but only members may vote.

**Starr King Openspace Volunteer for the Park** work days continue every month on the third Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 810.4900. Next meeting: **January 15**. Next Volunteer Day: **December 15**.

**Potrero Hill Garden Club** usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.6740 for details.



### St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church

19<sup>th</sup> Street, Between Connecticut & Missouri Street

An inclusive community located on Potrero Hill

All Are Welcome!

Rev. Paul Warren, Pastor

Mass Schedule

Vigil (Saturday) 4:15PM

Sunday, 8:30AM & 10:00AM

Tuesday & Friday, 8:30AM (First Friday, 11AM)

Monthly Children's Liturgy---Adult & Children Religious Education

Special Welcoming Mass the First Sunday of each month.

Come meet your neighbors,

Make new friends and enjoy fellowship & community.



Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve Mass, Monday, December 24, 8PM

Christmas Day Mass, Tuesday, December 25, 10AM

New Years Day, Tuesday, January 1, 2008, 10AM

For more information: Call 415-285-5272

[info@stteresasf.org](mailto:info@stteresasf.org)

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# arts & ENTERTAINMENT

December 2007

## Through December 15

**Theater:** *The Necessity of Hank*  
Exit Theater presents *The Necessity of Hank*, a comic drama written by Val and Noah Kelly, a mother and son duo, that tells the story of a misguided woman who, as she nears the end of a momentous journey, crosses paths with a like-minded soul. The encounter takes place within the confines of a dark, strange, and stormy dentist's office, and is told from two very different perspectives. Tickets \$12 to \$20. 8 p.m., Exit Theater, 156 Eddy Street. Information: 673.3847; www.theexit.org.

## December 1

### **Exhibition:** Eth-Noh-Tec's A Feast of Stories

For 25 years Nancy Wang and Robert Kikuchi-Yngoj have been fusing classic storytelling with the art of cooking. This month the duo and other nationally-recognized storytellers come to San Francisco to perform their craft. Robert will stir up a a Filipino favorite, and Nancy a Mandarin Delight. The evening will be filled with the aroma of spices and stories to sate your soul and pleasure your palette. Tickets \$50. 5 p.m., 977 South Van Ness Ave Information: 282.8705; www.ethnohtech.org.

### **Auction:** SF Camerawork Photographic Prints Benefit Auction

SF Camerawork auctions off a collector's paradise of vintage and contemporary photographic prints by more than 200 leading artists. Admirers of classic 20th century works can bid on pieces by such luminaries as Dorothea Lange, Ansel Adams, Edward Steichen, Brett Weston, and Bernice Abbott. Those with a taste for the contemporary will be drawn to works by Joel Sternfeld, Judy Dater, Michael Light, William Wegman, David Maisel, Lori Nix, Todd Hido, Dinh Q. Le, Ann Hamilton and many others. Admission \$25. 657 Mission Street, 2nd Floor. Information: 512.2020; www.sfcamerawork.org.

## December 2

### **Religion:** Christmas Faire

Don't miss St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church's Christmas Faire, featuring hand-crafted gift items and wonderful presents for everyone on your list. Buy art, crafts, or jewelry from local and international charities as gifts that help people in need. Stop-by the Mix & Match Cookie Bar, overflowing with home-baked cookies, and create your own special assortment from dozens of delicious treats. Kids and adults are invited to make their own Advent or Winter Solstice wreaths; a hearty soup lunch, hot chocolate and cider will be served. 12:30 to 3 p.m. St. Gregory Church, 500 DeHaro Street. Information: 255.8100; www.saintgregorys.org.

## December 4

### **Community:** Hearing on St. Luke's Hospital's Plans

The San Francisco Public Health Commission will discuss St. Luke's Hospital's recently announced plans to

close their Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Inpatient Pediatrics Services. Join community members and provide your views on the closures. 3 p.m., 101 Grove Street, Room 300.

## December 6

### **Networking Mixer:** Lennar's Small Business Assistance

Lennar will host its final quarterly small business assistance mixer to inform Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) small businesses about the upcoming needs of Lennar's contractors, consultants and shipyard businesses. Small business managers can market their goods and services to Lennar, which is aiming to purchase a minimum of 20 percent of their shipyard project-related needs from BVHP small businesses with 50 employees or less. 6 to 8 p.m., Jewel Restaurant, 5251 Third Street. Information: 995.4818; brajah.norris@lennar.com.

## December 7

### **Book Release:** Nigel Poor

Join Center for the Book as they celebrate the release of *The Relative Value of Things*, an artist's book by Nigel Poor and the third title in their ongoing artist-in-residence Imprint series. Nigel will give a brief talk about the project, and copies of the book will be available for sale at a discounted price. 7 to 9 p.m., Center for the Book, 300 DeHaro Street. Information: 565.0545; www.sfcb.org.

## December 8

### **Live Music:** Farley's

Come enjoy the Go Van Gough band, a group that blends Middle Eastern, jazz and punk influences. The music will form a backdrop to an exotic, electric belly dancing routine. 7 p.m., Farley's 1315 18th Street. Information: 648.1545; www.farleyscoffee.com.

### **Sweet Ice:** Winter Dreamscape

In honor of the holidays, watch a magical winter dreamscape come to life as celebrity chef Elizabeth Falkner leads a team of her pastry chefs in creating a landscape made entirely of cake and other dessert ingredients. Known for her artistic flair and frequently featured on national television, Falkner is the owner of the award-winning San Francisco patisserie Citizen Cake and the author of the newly published cookbook, *Demolition Desserts: Recipes from Citizen Cake*. Noon to 4 p.m., The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street. Information: 561.0363; www.exploratorium.edu.

## December 14

### **Art Reception:** Farley's

Support the Janet Pomoroy Center, formerly the Recreation Center for the Handicap, by attending this party and art reception, where art will be displayed for sale. 7 p.m., Farley's 1315 18th Street. Information: 648.1545; www.farleyscoffee.com.

## December 14-16

### **Ballet:** Nutcracker by City Ballet School

City Ballet School of San Francisco presents "Nutcracker," with artistic

direction by Galina Alexandrova and choreography by Yuri Zhukov. The City Ballet School pays tribute to the classic fairy-tale ballet with five colorful and intimate performances. Sat/Sun 2 p.m.; Fri/Sat/Sun 7 p.m., Cowell Theater, Fort Mason, Buchanan Street and Marina Boulevard. Information: 345.7575; cityballetschool.org.

## December 14- January 6

### **Theater:** Siddhartha, The Bright Path.

The Marsh Youth Theater presents its first ever professional production: a new rendering of *Siddhartha*. The story recounts Prince Siddhartha's journey to become the Buddha, and is told in parallel with that of Chandra, a modern-day San Francisco girl who finds herself posing similar questions about the importance of that next pair of \$200 sneakers as opposed to the human suffering she sees all around her. *Siddhartha* was funded in part by a San Francisco Arts Commission Cultural Equity Grant and the Children's Theater Foundation of America. Tickets \$18 to \$35. 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street. Information: 415-826-5750; www.themarsh.org.

## December 15

### **Toy Exhibit:** On Top and Bottom of the World

Physics of Toys honors the 2007-2008 International Polar Year with gadgets and toys inspired by the science of Arctic and Antarctic air, ice, land, and oceans. Physics of Toys is an interactive laboratory that explores toys in a one-on-one workshop in which children and adults investigate the science of everyday things. Free with admission to the Exploratorium. 11 to 3 p.m., The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street. Information: 561.0363; www.exploratorium.edu.

### **Choral Concert:** An Italian Holiday

Join the San Francisco Concert Chorale as they celebrate the holiday season with the majestic Vivaldi Gloria and Respighi's tender and gentle Laud at the Nativity conducted by John Emory Bush. The concert will include a traditional carol sing-along, and the performance will include soloists accompanied by an instrumental ensemble and Jerome Lenk at the organ. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. 8 p.m., Mission Dolores Basilica, 3321 16th Street. Information: 840.0675; wwwsfconcertchorale.org.

## December 16

### **Fair:** Holiday Book Fair

Center of the Book will have gifts for sale from a wide variety of printers, bookbinders, book artists, and other craftspeople, as well as limited-edition 2008 calendars, as part of

this year's Pacific Center for the Book Arts calendar exhibition. Browse the artists' books and journals, handmade and decorative papers, calligraphy and book-making supplies, holiday cards and lots more from a variety of vendors. 12 to 5 p.m., 300 De Haro Street. Information: 565.0545; www.sfcb.org.

### **Fashion:** THREAD

A group of hip, emerging fashion designers comes to San Francisco in THREAD, a fashion trade show that showcases new independent designer lines. For fashionistas seeking 'what's next' and the most cutting-edge looks, THREAD is a chance to pick up one-of-a-kind pieces ranging from hand-stitched frocks to eye-catching jewelry, often at reduced prices. THREAD will feature runway shows, art exhibitions, DJ'S, cocktails, gift bags and much more. Tickets \$7 in advance; \$10 at the door. Noon to 6 p.m., The Galleria, 101 Henry Adams Street. Information: www.threadshow.com.

## December 19

### **Community:** Annual Holiday Luncheon

Join your neighbors for an afternoon of live music and free food to keep the holiday vibes strong. The festive menu includes smoked turkey, honey baked ham, cornbread stuffing, green beans, macaroni & cheese, candied yams, tossed green salad, and cranberry sauce. 11:30 to 2:00 p.m., The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. Information: 826.8080.

## December 24

### **Religion:** Christmas Eve Services

Join St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church for their Christmas Eve Pageant. The liturgy begins at 6 p.m. and the late-night Christmas Eve Concert and Liturgy starts at 10 p.m. St. Gregory Church, 500 DeHaro Street. Information: 255.8100; www.saintgregorys.org.

## December 31

### **Theater:** Marga Gomez's New Year's Eve Spectacular

Theater Rhinoceros brings back Marga Gomez, GLAAD Award winner and "America's Most Wanted Latina Lesbian," and introduces Ali Mafi, a hilarious gay Muslim comic and Iranian President Ahmadinejad's worst nightmare, in the highest voltage, most diverse, and queerest comedy event in town. Expect Gomez and Mafi to get down and dirty as they take on the politics and pop culture of 2007 and reveal their individual sexual resolutions for the coming year. Tickets \$25 to \$30. 7 and 9 p.m., Victoria Theatre 2961 16th Street. Information: 861.5079; www.therhino.org.

# \*You're Invited!\*

Interested in writing for the *View* or getting to know the faces behind the paper? Drop by our holiday open house, Tuesday 5-7 p.m., 2325 Third Street, Suite 344. Drinks and hors-d'oeuvres will be served.



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The Good Life Grocery has been collecting toys for over 15 years. Potrero Hill has always been generous in helping us help this very local organization. Please join us again in supporting

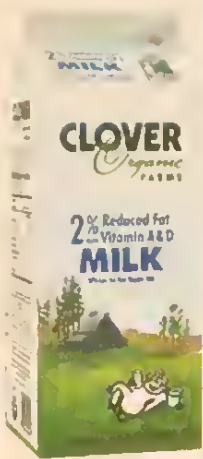
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Clover Dairy  
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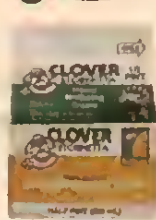
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69¢



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Juices

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10/14 oz -reg 5 39

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El Salvador

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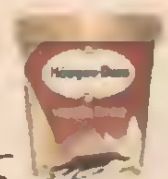
CALENDAR  
2008

POTRERO HILL  
BERNAL HEIGHTS

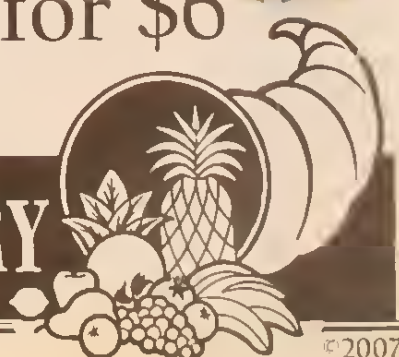
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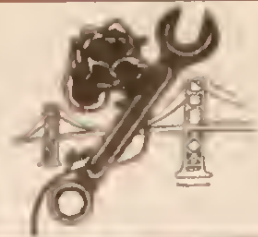
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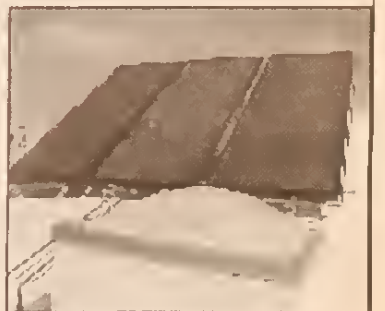


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## Community Activities

**SENIORS (60+) DON'T EAT LUNCH ALONE.** Join us for daily lunch and add to your social life. Mon-Fri, hot nutritious meals--your first time with us you get a free lunch! Bingo, cards, birthday celebrations, special events, and other activities. For more information, call Dolores Maghari at 415.826.8080. PH Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St.

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**HOLIDAY STRESS?** Give yourself or someone you love one of sf's best MESSAGES! Certified. Potrero Hill Healing Arts. 282.2574.

## Home Services

**PICTURE FRAMER.** Affordable framing. 50-70% less than anyone in the city. Bernal Heights. Phone for price 415.550.9248. Douglas Elliott Museum Standard Framing.

**OVERWHELMED BY CLUTTER? RELOCATING?** As featured on HGTV, NPR & The Chronicle. ShipShape offers expert, simple solutions to what goes where. We cut through clutter, defrazzle moves, install closets & restore simplicity & peace of mind to busy lives. Home/Closets/Office/Packing & More. ShipShape. [com/415.550.0658](http://com/415.550.0658).

**ORGANIZE YOUR TIME, PAPER, SPACE.** Want to feel in control of your time, on top of your work and supported by your stuff? I am a long-time Potrero Hill resident, a

member of NAPO, and would like to help you. Call for a no-obligation consultation: Linda James 415.285.3266.

**CLEANING PROFESSIONAL.** 20 Years Experience. Apartments, homes, or offices. Roger Miller, 415.664.0513.

**DO YOU NEED HOUSECLEANING?** We will do it for you. Call Sara & Marco 415.310.8838.

**PROFESSIONAL HOUSECLEANING.** Systematic, consistent, detail oriented. 20 yrs excellent refs. CALL NOW FOR FREE EST. Wkly. Bi or 1x mov in/out. All specialties. Deana 510.547.2469.

**HANDYMAN/CARPENTER.** Hang a door, build or repair a fence or deck, shelves, sheet rock. I do good work at a reasonable price. Robert 415.566.3389.

**HANDYMAN/MIKE.** Electrical, Carpentry, Custom woodwork, Decks, Doors, Dry rot Fences, Garbage disposal, Locks, Siding, Molding, Painting, Plumbing, Toilet, Sheet-rock, Stairs, Tile. 415.756.9896.

**HANDYMAN MIKE.** Your local, small project guy. Woodworking, painting, dry-wall, tile, doors/windows, lights, electrical/plumbing, hanging, installations and more. Call 415.435.7981.

**J.A. EMMANUEL CONSTRUCTION.** State License #861994. General Building Contractor. Residential and commercial. New construction, additions, kitchens, bathrooms, garage additions, general carpentry, retaining wall, fences, stairs, skylights, stucco, windows, doors, plumbing, electrical, roofing, painting. Customer Satisfaction. Quality service at reasonable rates! 18 years experience. Free estimates from your plans or ours. Call 415.902.2469. [www.jaemmanuelconstruction.com](http://www.jaemmanuelconstruction.com).

**BEST PRICE \* BEST PRODUCT** Carpentry Fences Decks Stairs Windows Doors Tile Setting Seismic & Structural Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling Serving San Francisco Neighborhoods for 20 years Handyperson services: Just Fix it Now! 415. 282.5406. Licensed Bonded and Insured CSL# 888938.

**ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES** Realize your home's potential today! Neighborhood Architect with 20 years experience available for residential or commercial renovation and construction. Please call Bradley Davidson A.I.A., 415.370.8291, [bradleydavidsonarchitect.com](http://bradleydavidsonarchitect.com), California. License. #C-23182.

**CARPENTRY/RESTORATION.** Int.& Ext. carpentry and painting, dryrot, pest report, docks, fences, structural and seismic, sheetrock and stucco repair, roof leaks, tree trimming and hauling. FAR WEST RESTORATIONS & CONSTRUCTION CA. Lic. #751689. Jim Kennedy 415.263.0516.

## Insurance Services

**LONG TERM CARE SPECIALIST.** Free consultation. Experienced broker helps individuals/small businesses plan ahead. Lee Abel Bandele 415.821.2271.

## Miscellaneous

**DREAMGROUP—8 Week** classes to start TUESDAY, 7-9 PM. No experience necessary. Uses Jeremy Taylor Projective Dreamwork. \$96.00 payable in advance or \$12.00 drop-in fee to visit first time to check it out. For information, call Jana Hutcheson, 415.647.7517.

## Pet Services

**PEACEFUL KINGDOM PETSITTING** We offer gentle, attentive care for your beloved pets and peace of mind when you are away. Cat care and medications are our specialty. Serving Potrero Hill and San Francisco pets for 10 years. JoAnn 415.920.1973.

**TRU-LUV CATSITTING ON HILL** Long-time SF/SPCA volunteer and cat-lover. Care for your cat(s) as if they were my own for your complete peace of mind. 5 years exp. Potrero, Bernal, and Noe. Bonded and References. 415.285.5526. Low Rates.

**Akc Registered English Bulldog Super Stunning "PRINCESS"** Spectacular little Bulldog, Playful, and look so nice a cute bulldog, Fabulous Markings, Tiny Petite Body. Hard to find Better Anywhere with the most lovable Kissy Personality. Looking for great home to join and a caring family for adoption, she's vet check, shot up to date, love greater attention, health guaranteed and de-wormed. contact donaldpops@yahoo.com for details.

## Photography

**VIDEO SPECIALIST.** It's About Time Productions offers video filming, video transfer, DVD-VHS-web media transfer, digital photography, photo book, photo DVD-VHS. Call or email 415.260.4141, [ericfazio@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ericfazio@sbcglobal.net).

**POTRERO VIEW PHOTOGRAPHER** available for family portraits, celebrations etc. Reasonable rates; friendly approach paula eve aspin 415.425.1218.

## Rentals

**CHARMING GARDEN APARTMENT** One 8R, 2-night minimum. Fireplace, patio, deck, French doors. 415.641.4488.

**MEETING/EVENT RENTAL SPACE** available at Slovenian Hall. Facilities: dining room w/ stage, dance floor, barroom & meeting room. Call 415.864.9629.

**SPARE ROOM?** Host foreign students! \$500 per week with 15 hrs English tutoring. 1 to 4 weeks. Families w/ teens especially needed. More info, Rita 415.724.9887.

**VACATION RETREAT FOR POTRERO HILLIANS.** Calistoga/St. Helena area. 3 bdrms, 2 baths, sleeps 6 (max). Lg decks w/views of stream, woods & meadow. Fireplace w/wood supplied. 30 acres. Trails. All-year stream. Dogs OK. 3 night wkend=\$450; week=\$800 or 4 wks at \$2400. 415.647.3052. Photos at <http://home.earthlink.net/~springmount/>.

**PART-TIME OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT.** Great for acupuncturist or CMT or other prof. Large, lovely, light-filled room. Avl. Th, F, S & Su. 2nd Rm incl w/rent on S & Su. \$600.00/mo. Utl's incl. Est. holistic D.C. and massage clinic on the hill...just above Farley's! 282.2574.

**SPACIOUS AND BEAUTIFUL** furnished guest garden apartment w/kitchen. Private. 1/2 blk to restaurants. Non-smoking. Short term only. 415.861.3208.

**COTTAGE ON THE HILL,** all redone, fully furnished, gas fireplace, full kitchen. One blk to Whole Foods. 8y the week, by the month. Short Term Only. 415.643.3500.

## Tutorials

**END HOMEWORK HASSLES.** Family time's better spent. [www.mystudybuddy.org](http://www.mystudybuddy.org). Jane Radcliffe 415.586.4577.

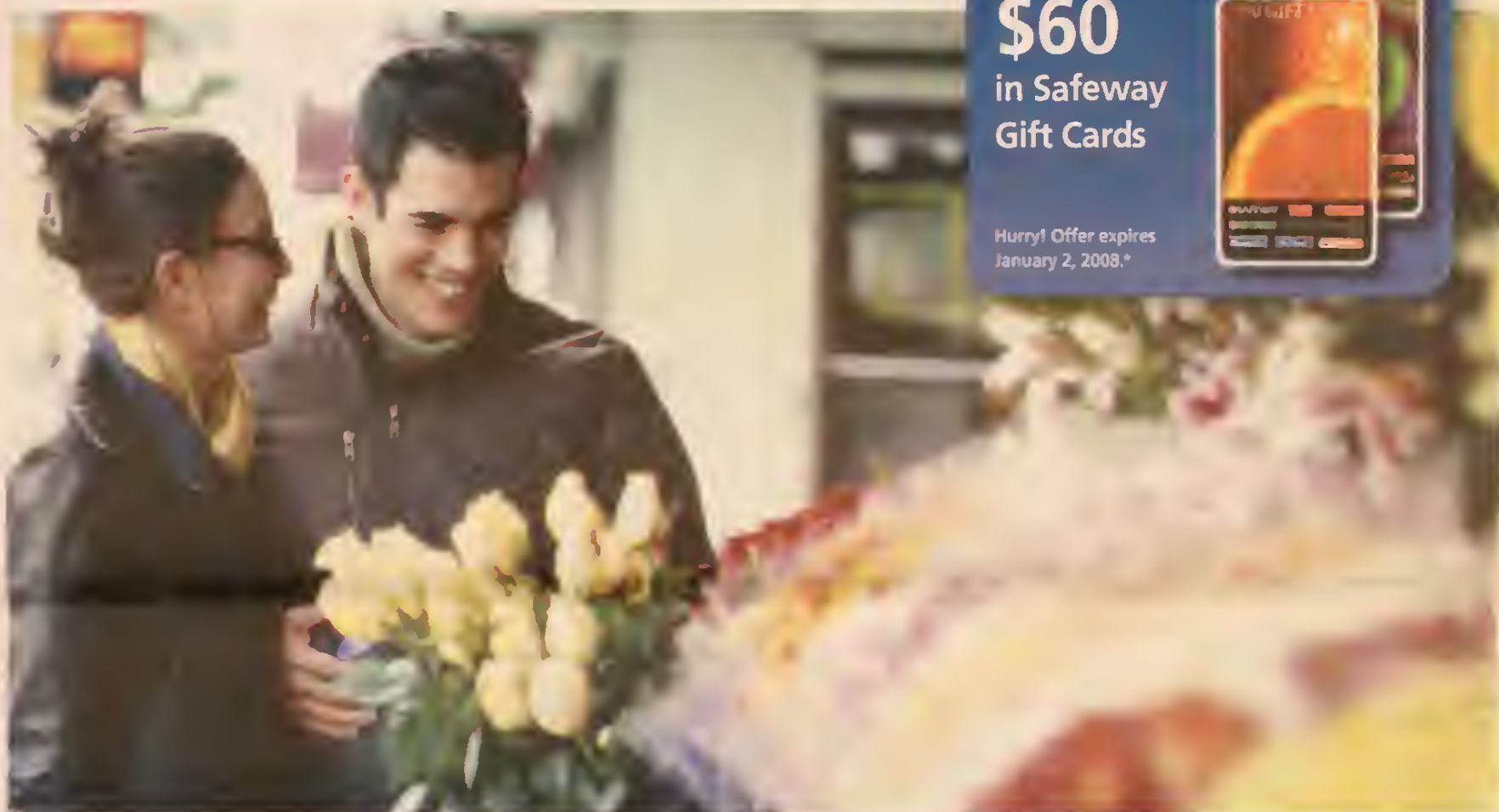




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